

# Appendix A

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about, *adv.*, *prep.*, *adj.*, and *int.*

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*Brit.* /ə'baʊt/, *U.S.* /ə'baʊt/ Forms: *α.* OE **onbutton**, OE-ME **anbutan**, OE-ME **onbutan**, 1OE **unbutton** (transmission error), 1OE-ME **onbuten**, ME **anbowght**, ME **anbowt**, ME **anbutton**, ME **onbute**. *β.* OE **abuta** (*rare*), OE **abutotan** (transmission error), OE **habutan** (*rare*), OE-eME **abutan**, OE-eME **abuton**, OE-ME **abuten**, eME **abeotan**, eME **abotan**, eME **abutæn**, eME **abutenn**, eME **abuttenn**, ME **abhowte**, ME **abhute**, ME **abode**, ME **abohut**, ME **abohutt**, ME **abot**, ME **abote**, ME **aboughte**, ME **abouȝt**, ME **abouȝte**, ME **abouȝten**, ME **aboughth**, ME **abouten**, ME **abouute**, ME **abowght**, ME **abowgth**, ME **abownten** (perh. transmission error), ME **abowot**, ME **abowt**, ME **abowten**, ME **abowtt**, ME **abowtyn**, ME **abute**, ME **abuuten**, ME **habout**, ME **obout**, ME **oboute**, ME **obowte**, ME **obut**, ME **obute**, ME **16 abut**, ME-15 **abouet**, ME-15 **abought**, ME-15 **abowte**, ME-17 **aboute**, ME-**about**, 15 **abowth**; *Eng. regional* 18 **abaght** (*north.*), 18 **abeawt** (*north.*), 18- **abaht** (*north.*), 18- **abaout** (*midl.*), 18- **abawt** (*midl.*), 18- **aboot** (*north. and north midl.*), 18- **abootan** (*north.*), 18- **abouten** (*south.*), 19- **abowt** (*north.*); *U.S. regional* 18 **abaout**, 18 **abeout**, 19- **aboot**, 19- **abouten**, 19- **about'n**, 19- **abowoot**, 19- **erbout**; *Sc. pre-17 aboute*, *pre-17 abowt*, *pre-17 abowte*, *pre-17 abut*, *pre-17 abute*, *pre-17 17- about*, 18- **aboot**; also *Irish English* 18 **abouten** (*Wexford*), 18- **abut** (*Wexford*), 19- **aboot** (*north.*). [*< ON-prefix + BOUT adv.*<sup>1</sup> (see discussion at that entry). Compare Old Frisian *abuȝta* (adverb) outside. Compare **BOUT adv.**<sup>1</sup>, **BOUT prep.**<sup>1</sup> Compare also later **BOUT prep.**<sup>2</sup>, **BOUT adv.**<sup>2</sup> See also **THEREABOUT adv.** and later **ROUND ABOUT adv.** and **prep.**]

The *β* forms show the usual reduction of the unaccented prefix *on-* to *a-* (see *A-prefix*<sup>3</sup>), already attested in Old English by the late 10th cent. (see A. Campbell *Old Eng. Gram.* (1959) §474).

Compare Old English *ymbūtan* and **UMBE prep.**

In Old English, the preposition was construed either with the dative or with the accusative.]

**A. *adv.*****I. Expressing actual or implied motion or direction.**

1. In rotation or revolution; round in a circular course. Now *rare* except in

uninjured human corpses or parts of them lay about in dozens.

### III. Expressing approximation. Nearly, approximately, more or less.

#### 8. With numbers, quantities, and measures: approximately.

In this use distinguished from the preposition (sense B. III.) by being able to premodify the subject or object of a clause or the object of a preposition.

**OE** *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Tiber. B.i) anno 1055, Man sloh ȝær mycel wæl - abutan feower hund manna oððe fife. **IOE** *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough interpolation) anno 656, Swa abutan III mile to þrokonholt, & fra þrokonholt riht þurh al ȝe fen. **IOE** *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1127, Soðfeste men..sæidon, þes ȝe heom þuhte, þet þær mihte wel ben abuton twenti oðer þritti hornblaweres. **c1225** (?c1200) *St. Juliana* (Bodl.) l. 629 Wenden alle..abute fif hundret. **c1325** (c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig. A. 11) 4953 þis was in ȝe ȝer of grace six hundred..& aboute vour & þritti. **c1384** *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(2)) (1850) Deeds v. 36 A noumbre of men consentide, aboute foure hundrid. **c1438** *Bk. Margery Kempe* II. 234 A woman..abowtyn iij scor ȝer of age. **a1470** MALORY *Morte Darthur* (Winch. Coll.) 27 Whan they se you but aboute twenty thousande. **1535** *Bible* (Coverdale) Josh. iv. C, Aboute a fortye thousande men ready harnessed to the warre, wente before the Lorde. **1555** R. EDEN tr. Peter Martyr of Angleria *Decades of Newe Worlde* f. 274, [Norway] hath also a peculiar pestilence which they caule Leem or Lemmer..a lyttle foure footed beaste abowte the byggenesse of a ratte with a spotted skynne. **1611** *Bible* (A.V.) Exod. xxxii. 28 There fell of the people that day about three thousand men. **a1676** M. HALE *Primitive Originat. Mankind* (1677) II. vii. 178 The Period between the Flood and the Exitus of the People out of Egypt was about 800 Years. **1712** E. COOKE *Voy. S. Sea* 35 About 30 more had the Scurvy. **1774** J. PRINGLE *Disc. Air* 22 An ordinary candle consumes, as it is called, about a gallon of air in a minute. **1793** J. SMEATON *Narr. Edystone Lighthouse* (ed. 2) §328 The iron came to about, or rather above, a blue heat. **1801** M. EDGEWORTH *Forester in Moral Tales* I. 25 A girl of about seven years old. **1849** MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 348 In 1685 London had been, during about half a century, the most populous capital in Europe. **1879** J. N. LOCKYER *Elem. Lessons Astron.* vi. 36. 208 Light travels about 186,000 miles a second. **1915** D. HAIG *Diary* 20 Jan. in *War Diaries & Lett. 1914-18* (2005) 93 About 11 officers are now to be added to my Staff. **1942** *National Geographic Mag.* June 730/2 It was a four-and-a-half-foot barracuda, motionlessly regarding us from about 15 feet away. **2001** E. SCHLOSSER *Fast Food Nation* vii. 150 Each steer deposits about fifty pounds of manure every day.